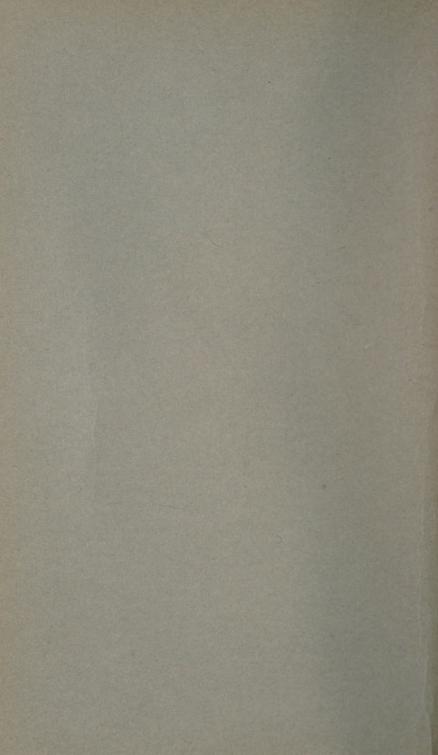




Peabody Museum of Salem



Report of the Director



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REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1951

Salem, 2 January 1952

TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE PEABODY MUSEUM OF SALEM:

▲ S befits an institution whose principal concerns are the history of things maritime, the natural history of a coastal county, and ethnological collections that were begun by seafarers, our activities in 1951 were as salty as Lot's wife. Unlike that unfortunate woman, however, we tried not to cast too long a look backwards but endeavored to look ahead and keep moving, as she should have done. Once upon a time the way of the museum worker seemed a curious one to those who derived livelihoods in more orthodox fields. While people did not exactly view with alarm, they certainly entertained mixed feelings about the museum business and were often quite surprised that anyone worked in a museum at all. The most frequent question asked a staff member in his off hours was, "What do you find to do in a museum?" It is a good question even though it is heard less often nowadays. In any case it is a question we like to answer once a year, so here is what we did at the Peabody Museum of Salem in 1951.

A new departure for us this year was the founding of groups of Fellows and Friends of the Peabody Museum of Salem. This museum, a privately endowed institution governed by a board of trustees, has never had memberships of any kind. Nevertheless, many well disposed people have occasionally expressed the desire to become affiliated with the museum in some way. The known existence of such latent interest combined with the belief that we must, of necessity, broaden the base of our support prompted the trustees to invite people to join one of the new groups. Caught, like all similar institutions, in the rising inflationary tide, it is constantly more difficult to operate adequately on the income from endowment alone. The wider popular support made possible by the new groups will mean the difference between simply existing and preserving our collections, and extending the influence of the museum in the fields of its

preëminence and services to the public. Fellows contribute fifty dollars or more a year and Friends contribute ten dollars or more annually. The response to our invitation has been a heartening and gratifying thing, for these groups subscribed \$6396.06 in 1951. We extend our thanks to all our friends for such generous support.

The first annual gathering for the Fellows and Friends of the Museum was held on 14 September, and the museum was closed during the afternoon to all but members of the two groups. Mrs. Francis B. Crowninshield, one of the museum trustees, invited the Fellows to supper at Seaside Farm, Marblehead. Never was a night more soft, a hostess more gracious, or the moon lovelier over Marblehead Harbor. At eight o'clock the Fellows and Friends were greeted in East India Marine Hall by Ralph Lawson, vice-president of the trustees, and Dr. Earnest A. Hooton, Professor of Anthropology at Harvard University, gave a learned and witty talk on "The Advantages of Having a Past." The serving of Peabody Punch ended the festivities and the evening closed pleasantly with people wandering about the building in what an earlier writer once described, while speaking of a similar affair held in this same building nearly a century ago, as "an elegant concourse of ladies and gentlemen admiring the specimens."

We had a sound year financially with a negligible deficit of only \$64.63, this despite rising corporation taxes which cut down our income from the previous year, and increased maintenance costs of all kinds. Good friends have helped us out but we must look to the future and increase our endowment as much as possible. It is with this in mind that we have set aside the subscriptions from Fellows and Friends in a special fund which will be added to each year.

Besides our Fellows and Friends the following individuals and groups made cash donations for general or special purposes in 1951: Hon. William H. Bates, Mrs. Raynal C. Bolling, Mrs. Francis B. Crowninshield, Mrs. Greeley S. Curtis, Mr. Lawrence W. Jenkins, Mr. Ralph Lawson, Hon. Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr., Mr. Augustus P. Loring, Jr., Mr. Augustus P. Loring, III, Mr. Dominic Meo, Jr., Mr. Stephen Phillips, Mr.

Alfred P. Putnam, Mr. Wilson H. Roads, Mr. Charles H. Taylor, Mrs. Richard Wheatland, Mr. Stephen Wheatland, Mr. Walter Muir Whitehill, Mrs. Richard H. Wiswall, The American Museum of Natural History, The Rushlight Club, and the Salem East India Marine Society. Our Treasurer's summary of the institution's finances is appended to this report.

Attendance at the museum was 42,378, an increase of 3164 over 1950. Of this number, 3702 were members of one of the 110 school classes, scout troops, or other organized groups who visited us. Most of the groups were from Salem and the surrounding towns but some came from as far away as Pennsylvania; Gorham, Maine; Wickford, Rhode Island; and New

York City.

In the early nineteenth century when the museum was maintained by the East India Marine Society, many of its members, in the course of mercantile ventures stretching from the northwest coast across the Pacific to China, collected handiwork from the South Sea islanders and it is on these important early collections that our holdings in this field rest. So then, because of this early connection between our institution and Oceania we were delighted when the opportunity came about to sponsor a small expedition to the South Seas. It is a new type of venture for us but a very desirable one, and it was made possible by grants obtained by Mr. Donald S. Marshall, the principal person on the expedition, and by the generosity of friends interested in Polynesian studies whose aid is coming to us through The American Museum of Natural History in New York. Thus, after a century, a man connected with this museum is once more meeting the natives and looking on the distant lands of the Pacific. But the emphasis is different. The captains sought sandalwood and beche de mer, and the knowledge of the natives was incidental to their trade. Mr. Marshall's objects are scientific and historical. Our evolution from a captains' hobby to a research institution is thus complete.

Mr. Marshall left Salem in August for Honolulu. After spending about two weeks working at the Bishop Museum, where his stay was made pleasant by the hospitality and help of the museum staff, he flew to Suva, Fiji. A two-day stop there gave him the opportunity to meet native Fijians and to make a survey of the local museum before flying on to New Zealand. Since his arrival in Auckland he has been working at the University and doing research on the material culture and physical anthropology of Polynesia in the Auckland Museum. He is, besides, studying the Polynesian language with Maori, Cook Islands, and Tahitian natives. Arrangements have been made for him to visit all the museums in New Zealand containing ethnological collections, and in mid-March he will leave for the Cook Islands. There he will live for several months and make a complete ethnological study of a village on one of the high islands and a briefer survey, for comparative purposes, of a village on a coral island. After completing his Cook Islands studies he will then go to Tahiti, where he will work with Mr. J. Frank Stimson for another extended period on ethnological and linguistic material that Mr. Stimson has been collecting there over a period of some thirty years. The reports, photographs, and data which Mr. Marshall is sending us regularly will eventually result in special exhibitions, lectures, and publications. The first extensive expedition we have ever sponsored has gotten off to an auspicious start.

There were one hundred ninety accessions during the year containing a total of two thousand three hundred twenty-seven items. Of this total seventeen were purchases, nine deposits, and the remainder, gifts. Well over half, or one hundred twenty-five of the accessions, were in the field of maritime history. In this field, we received thirty lots of manuscripts containing over eleven hundred fifty individual pieces. The rapidly growing marine picture file was enlarged by six hundred thirteen photographs and half-tones. We received sixty-two charts, forty-six prints, twenty-nine sets of ship's lines, twenty-three paintings and sketches, fourteen models, and ninety-five miscellaneous objects of a maritime nature. Ethnological accessions numbered fifty-three and consisted of three hundred twenty-seven specimens. Broken down geographically there were eighty-two from Oceania (including thirteen from Polynesia, and forty-three from Micronesia), one hundred sixty-three from Asia (of which one hundred were Chinese and forty-four Japanese), eighty-two from North America, fifteen from Africa, and only two each from South America and Europe. This is far fewer ethnological accessions than we have had in several years, but the quality is high. The total number of natural history accessions was seventeen and included one hundred two specimens. Our natural history coverage is now so restricted that the number of accessions remains small. The library was increased by the gift of two hundred and fifty-four volumes and twenty-seven periodicals received by gift or exchange and, besides, sixty-four volumes were purchased and thirty-five periodicals subscribed to.

In my report for last year I mentioned Marion V. Brewington's gift of a painting by Joseph Roux of the famous Revolutionary naval engagement between H.M.S. Serapis and John Paul Jones' Bon Homme Richard. Early this year Mr. Brewington gave us the companion picture, an oil painting of an English East Indiaman being attacked by a French man-of-war, signed J. Roux, 1781. Since writing last year's report we have discovered that a third work of Joseph Roux is owned by Phillip Keller, a private collector of Roux paintings in Luzern, Switzerland.

Most Salem captains sailed as a business and, as soon as they had made enough money, retired to a handsome mansion on Chestnut Street or a farm in rural Essex County. George Crowninshield, however, was different; he was a sailor's sailor and sailed because he loved it. In 1816 he engaged the noted Salem shipbuilder, Retire Becket, to design and build the first vessel ever constructed in America solely for pleasure purposes. The new yacht was his pride and joy and he named her Cleopatra's Barge. The finest wood, material, and workmanship available went into her construction and she was handsomely, even lavishly, fitted out. In 1916 a special exhibition of objects from Cleopatra's Barge was held at the museum. Most of the articles shown were lent by various members of the Crowninshield or related families. Since that time we have come into possession of a number of these things. Mrs. Francis B. Crowninshield is endeavoring to bring together as much of the Barge material as possible. Towards that end she has given us eight handsome silver beakers, twelve forks, a toasting fork, a painted metal tray, a silver buckle, and a lock of Napoleon's hair; all things associated with George Crowninshield and *Cleopatra's Barge*.

Verily the New England coast is one of the world's delights. The stretch of shore, while varied, has a curious and subtle homogeneity about it. Although the geographical features differ from one place to another, the north Atlantic ocean and the people are common to the whole coast—two very great things. Every little place possessing any sort of industry or trade associated with salt water adapted its boats to local conditions. Hence arose an extraordinary variety of types of small craft. From Eastport to Long Island Sound boats and small craft were developed for a particular place and purpose to suit the local needs. When the purpose no longer existed, the type disappeared, frequently leaving behind it only its name. It has been our endeavor over the years to get authentic models of these rare local types and to accumulate as much other information about them as possible.

The most important addition to this series that we have received in some time is a model of a Merrimac River gundalow. The model, made by Joseph Lowe of West Newbury in 1862 as a construction model for a gundalow that he built, has been described, along with an account of the uses of gundalows, in an article by Wallace B. Ordway entitled "The Merrimac River Gundalow and Gundalow Men" in The American Neptune, for October 1950. We obtained the model from Mr. Ordway's widow and also acquired at the same time a pair of original gundalow sweeps. The poet Whittier, a good native of the banks of the Merrimac, knew whereof he wrote when in describing gundalows he mentioned the "long antennae of their oars," for these impressive sweeps are twenty-eight feet long. They are on exhibition hanging above the cases on the east side of Academy Hall corridor. One gets a backache just from thinking of pushing a scow up river with those tremendously heavy things. Gundalows were clumsy craft pecularly suited to the lower Merrimac and the salt marsh area, with its tidal creeks and rivers, behind Plum Island. They were especially used for carrying the salt hay harvested on the marshes to riverside farms for winter fodder. Now the staddles stick up grey and bare from the marsh mud most of the time but even as recently as twenty years ago they were all crowned in the late summer with large stacks of salt hay carefully combed to shed the rain. The gundalows, however, had disappeared earlier for this later hay was carried off on wagons hauled by horses or tractors during the winter when the marshes were frozen.

About the only resemblance between a gundalow and a dory is that they both float, for the one is a kind of sea going dump cart for a farmer while the other is a real boat for a seaman. A fine model of a Swampscott dory made by Victor J. Slocum, son of the famous lonely circumnavigator, was given us by Miss Catherine Woodruff. And in connection with local types Mr. John Gardner of Lynn, who has given us a half model of a power dory, is making a study of the development of dories in the different ports of Essex County. His work of untangling the history of the evolution of the dory will, when completed, be an important contribution to the history of small craft.

Paintings of the ships Golden Eagle, Challenge, and Ariosto, all commanded by Captain Samuel Fabens of Salem, were received from the estate of his daughter, Miss Caroline Fabens of Marblehead. Mr. Alexander Vietor of New Haven gave us a portrait of a Boston captain, Robert Henry, and a portrait of another captain, Samuel J. Foster, of Beverly, at one time master of the Salem ship, Highlander, by Chamberlaine, was purchased. With the Foster portrait we also acquired two oil paintings of China port scenes; the subject of one of them, a close view of Pagoda Island in Whampoa Reach, is new to our collection.

During the last seventy-five years the Gloucester fishing schooner probably has been of more economic importance to the region than any other type of vessel. It is not surprising then that our collection of half models and rigged models of fishermen is extensive. Many of the builders' half models came from the busy Essex yards and these have been supplemented by lines of fishermen designed by B. B. Crowninshield whose drawings we received a few years ago. This year the collection was further

enriched by a very handsome rigged model of the schooner Cavalier of Gloucester, and six builders' half models of fishermen designed by Thomas Irving. These were all given by Mrs. Lowell MacDonald in memory of her late husband, Mr. Francis E. Waterman.

Probably the most famous model in our collection, and certainly the most important historically, is the contemporary one of the U. S. frigate *Constitution*, that was given to the East India Marine Society by Captain Isaac Hull in 1813. Later that same year it was damaged during a banquet given for Commodore William Bainbridge at Hamilton Hall where a salute was fired from its guns in his honor. The damage was repaired by British prisoners of war in a prison ship in the North River at Salem. This year we were given another very fine but much smaller model of the *Constitution* made by Mr. Guy Melgrin of Hingham. The large, handsomely carved, trailboards removed from the U. S. S. *Constitution* at the time of her last reconstruction were presented to us by Mr. William Bates of Stoneham.

Since East India Marine Hall was restored in 1943 the visitor, when he reaches the top of the stairway, has been greeted by a small figurehead of a woman in classical armor and upraised sword that was lent us by Mrs. Horatio Hathaway. This year, Mrs. Hathaway died and generously left the figurehead to us in her will.

Some years ago Mrs. Guy Lowell gave us a very fine and substantial collection of Liverpool ware in memory of her distinguished husband. This year she added twelve more pieces to the collection which has been brought together in two of the antique upright cases in East India Marine Hall. Our other large collection of Liverpool ware, which is lent to us anonymously, has been placed in the two companion cases, and the combined lots make an impressive display of over two hundred pieces.

Sailors' handiwork has always occupied an important place in our collections and our series of knots, splices, and fancy rope work is notable, but never before have we had such a piece of knot work as the thirty-foot fringe from an admiral's barge given us this year by Duncan I. Selfridge. We have also attempted to obtain nautical instruments by different makers and Miss Millicent N. Nichols gave us a telescope by a maker not hitherto known to us. Mrs. Nathaniel Bowditch Potter presented us with two handsome mahogany captain's chairs, and the collection of memorabilia connected with Nathanial Bowditch was augmented by the gift of a blackthorn walking stick from the Veterans' Association of the First Corps Cadets. Mrs. John G. Waters, in memory of her late husband, gave us the hat and dress sword of Richard Palmer Waters, the first U.S. Consul to Zanzibar, 1836. By coincidence, we had an extended visit from Mr. Waters' successor, Mr. Herman Eilts, the present U.S. Consul at Aden. Mr. Eilts, who is a historian as well as a diplomat, spent a fortnight working on the Richard Palmer Waters papers and correspondence which Mrs. John Waters gave us a year ago.

Edward M. Pickman of Bedford gave us an important manuscript written by his ancestor, Dudley Leavitt Pickman. This is an amplification of the journals Mr. Pickman turned in to the Salem East India Marine Society between 1800 and 1806, and gives a very full account of ports and cities he visited in Europe and the East. William C. Waters of Salem gave a miscellaneous lot of maritime manuscripts relating to the Derby, Silsbee, Crowninshield, and Richardson, families. Mrs. John Peabody Monks presented an account book and a log book, and Robert B. Applebee of Stockton Springs, Maine, gave a very large collection of papers relating to the Customs districts of Machias and Castine. Besides these gifts we purchased the waste books and journals of Brenton, Shattuck, and Jarvis of Martinique which cover a period from 1782 to 1784 and contain many references to Salem vessels which stopped there during that time.

The photograph file, particularly the steamship section, continued to grow boisterously, largely due to the energy of our Honorary Curator, Osgood Williams. He is constantly arranging exchanges with other collectors of steamship photographs and obtaining pictures through his contacts with people connected with shipping lines and firms. J. Francis Driscoll further

enlarged his collection of maritime sheet music, and Eric Heyl of Buffalo sent us a fine lot of steamship histories, the result of many years of his research on the subject.

Time was when the names of Micronesian Islands were familiar to New Englanders. Sunday school children by their small contributions supported the labors of missionaries from the American Board for Foreign Missions and helped maintain their vessels, the *Morning Stars*. Then came the Germans who took over the islands and after them came the Japanese and the missionary labors there ceased and the names were forgotten. It took a second World War to make them familiar again.

This year our largest Pacific accession was from Micronesia, mostly from the Marshall Islands. The collection, consisting of some thirty examples of the modern arts and crafts of Micronesians, was deposited by Captain Robert W. Ewell of the U.S. Air Force, who was stationed in the Marshall Islands for several years. It is interesting to compare this recent handiwork with our earlier collections, which were obtained when white influence there was negligible. But this collection is interesting from another point of view because it is an example of the unknown influence which the museum sometimes exerts upon local children. Captain Ewell is a native of Salem and came in here many times as a boy. The exotic carvings, tapas, and weapons from the Pacific fascinated him and so when he found himself, by force of circumstances, in the Marshall Islands he endeavored to obtain material which he thought would be fitting for our collections. Bread cast upon the water does have a way of returning. The most important single piece in the collection is a fine model of a Marshall Island canoe constructed especially for Captain Ewell by an old man who had been a canoe builder and remembered what the old canoes looked like.

Of all the island groups of Polynesia none is as ill represented in the museums of the world as the Austral Islands. The only objects common in collections from this group are the elaborate carved ceremonial paddles many of which were doubtless carved for export. We are fortunate in having in our collections the only known piece of authentic decorated Austral Islands tapa, and this I published in an article in the *Journal of the*

Polynesian Society in 1939. Our friend, Martin Anthony Brunor of New York, has now given us four old tapa beaters from the Island of Rurutu in the Australs. We had no examples of tapa beaters from this group previously. These mallets were obtained by Mr. Brunor during one of his periods of residence on Rurutu. Two of them were made over a century ago and are known to have been in the same native family until the time they were collected. The other two are somewhat more recent and came from the family of Vanira, a great chief of Moerai on Rurutu. According to Mr. Brunor, tapa making stopped in these islands in 1890, and in 1922 there were only two women living on Rurutu who remembered how to make it. Mr. Brunor also added to our Marquesan collections by giving us a canoe model and paddle, both carved by Enani of Nuka Hiva a few years before he died in the mid nineteen-thirties. Enani was the last of the great Marquesan wood carvers and it is fitting for us to have an example of his work to show beside the many fine examples of wood carving that were perhaps done by his ancestors.

Last year I mentioned the gift of a lacquered box presented to Commodore Matthew C. Perry when he opened Japan's ports to the western world in 1853. This year Mrs. Thomas Motley of Milton gave us another Japanese lacquered box with a similar history. Another presentation piece that we are glad to have is a very small but lovely Chinese silver junk model bestowed upon William Cameron Forbes when he was Governor General of the Philippine Islands, and given to us in memory of Miss

Dorothy Forbes by Mrs. Henry Lyman of Boston.

The most impressive oriental acquisitions are two large bronze garden lanterns given to the museum by Mrs. Ira Nelson Morris. They were formerly on her estate at Eagle Head, Manchester and we have set them up in a secluded part of our yard outside of the west windows in John Robinson Hall where they look very well surrounded by shrubbery against a gray wall. Mr. and Mrs. Francis B. Lothrop gave a collection of forty-eight Japanese and Chinese ethnological specimens and our Chinese collection was further increased by gifts from Mr. Arthur G. Robinson of Wellesley, who was, for many years, a missionary in China. We were also enabled to fill a gap in our

Far Eastern collections by the purchase of a collection of twentyfour Chinese shadow figures.

West Africa is one region of the world not well represented in our collection; and this notwithstanding a certain amount of local early nineteenth-century trade with that coast. So, when Mr. Austin L. Moore of Lynn offered a chair purchased from a Batshok chief in the Congo it was readily accepted. The Batshoks, a bellicose people from northern Angola who frequently fought with the Portuguese, gradually infiltrated into the southern Congo where they were eventually given permission to settle. The chair is small but well carved and was used by the chief when in council or when delivering judgment. The receipt of this chair caused me to reflect on the extraordinary number of other similar chairs and seats in our collection. From the other side of Africa we have a throne-like chair that belonged to the Sultan of Zanzibar and there are miscellaneous chiefs' seats from other parts of Africa and the Pacific Islands. Red lacquer chairs of Buddhist priests and other assorted and usually uncomfortable devices are sprinkled about the building. In the face of all these one is given to consider the chair as an elevating social force; an idea that seems to have spread into all corners of the earth. Chiefs, priests, and people of importance everywhere occupy the chairs or seats. In its ultimate development it becomes a throne. Our exhibition of East Indian portrait figures shows the merchants occupying chairs, but the scribe is seated cross legged on the ground. In early colonial times in New England there was frequently only one chair, which was used by the head of the family, and has given rise to our word chairman for the person presiding at a group meeting. The professional posts of learning in our colleges are frequently called chairs. Some years ago in North Salem there was a long bench occupied by a local chapter of "the boys," who were called "North Salem pigeons," or "the pigeons," from their habit of sitting in a single long line on their bench. The fact is, however, that they were the elite of local loafers for they had a seat to sit on while all the others in the city simply stood on corners. And who can say, that the more ample "captain's chairs" did not lend distinction to their occupants?

George M. Sheahan, Jr., of Quincy, who is planning to go to the Marquesas Islands this coming summer in connection with our Pacific Ethnological Expedition, gave us photostats of several important manuscripts relating to the Marquesas and other Polynesian Islands in the collection of the London Missionary Society and the Mitchell Library of Sydney. During his studies last year at Cambridge University he located many manuscripts relating to Polynesia which not only have never been published, but apparently were hitherto unknown to scholars.

The completeness of our natural history collections for Essex County is such that only occasionally is something new added. This is particularly true of the bird collections and so it was important to us that Torrey Jackson and David Tucker of Marblehead, while walking Crane's Beach in Ipswich, picked up the first Sooty Shearwater ever found in the county. The Sooty Shearwater is one of those far-ranging pelagic species of birds which spend their lives far from land in the loneliness and desolation of the waters. Gloucester fishermen on the Grand Banks know them well for the "hags," as shearwaters are called, wax fat on the gurry thrown overboard. The Sooty Shearwaters are far less numerous off the Essex County coast than the Greater Shearwaters, their close relatives, but they are greater gluttons. Thousands were caught on hooks and lines by the fishermen who used them for bait or food. Birds of this type are sometimes overcome by tempests, drowned and driven ashore.

Ever and anon a local birder looking aloft will see a soaring Turkey Buzzard. Even more rarely is its kinsman the Black Vulture seen but I recall one cold winter day on a Christmas census near Cape Ann, pausing with a group and having one of these scavengers obligingly fly over our heads. This year, Dr. Franklin Dexter of Beverly gave us a good mounted specimen of a Black Vulture taken at Pride's Crossing in 1923. Ludlow Griscom, new as our Honorary Curator of Ornithology but an old friend, obtained in West Newbury the first specimen of a Canadian Pine Grosbeak taken locally in many years. He has given it to us together with a remarkably late specimen of a Henslow's Sparrow.

In 1902 Miss Annie Oakes Huntington published a pleasant

and excellent book entitled *Studies of Trees in Winter* in which she described sixty-five different species. Her sister, Miss Elizabeth Quincy Huntington, has given us six boxes of the photographic negatives of the pictures which appeared in this work. Miss Huntington's book is one of those accurate and yet very literate and delightful studies that are typical of the best natural history writing of an earlier day.

John H. Sears collected Essex County rocks and minerals of all sorts. It is not often possible to add to the Sears Collection, so complete is it, but Louis A. Dodge of Wenham contributed a new specimen of limestone from that region that contained veins of calcite. In the late spring Stephen Wheatland sent us sixty-five recordings of bird songs and calls from Sweden. They are mostly of European birds but it is interesting to hear their songs and compare them with related species in North America. The new series of reptile casts was brought nearer completion by the addition of a timber rattlesnake and a copperhead, two of the largest as well as the most unpleasant and, fortunately, the rarest snakes in the county.

In a region noted for its sportsmen and naturalists, none have ever been more gifted artistically than our own late trustee, Frank Weston Benson. And because he was a naturalist as well as an artist, his famous etchings and watercolors of birds, particularly, bear an authenticity that is inescapable. In a Benson etching shore birds are not just shore birds, they are yellow legs, or dowitchers, or peep; and the ducks are baldpates, mallards, or blacks and not just a flock of wild fowl. We are therefore grateful to Stephen Wheatland for enriching our library with the gift of the rare four-volume catalogue of Etchings and Drypoints by Frank W. Benson compiled and edited by Adam E. M. Paff, which is a record of the artist's work in these mediums up to 1929. Mr. Benson is already represented in our collection by portraits of our former trustee, John Robinson, Edward S. Morse, one time director of the institution, and John Franklin Brooks, an eminent Salem merchant. Unfortunately, however, we do not possess any examples of his etchings, drypoints, wash drawings, or water colors. Some of these, we should like to obtain for who else could portray as well a grouse jumping from a mound of new fallen snow, a sodden and dejected crow in a cold November rain, or a long line of geese winging their way across the coastal dunes and marshes?

Our old friend and cheerful enthusiast, Parker H. Kemble, who brightened many days with his visits during the year, gave us one hundred eighty-five books on maritime history from his extensive library. One of these is Reynold's *Code of Signals*, 1854, a very scarce work dealing with an early international signal code.

The most considerable change in our permanent exhibits was the renovation of John Robinson Hall and the gallery leading into the natural history rooms. This work was stimulated and supervised by our energetic trustee, Mrs. Francis B. Crowninshield. She very generously had the gallery repainted, Robinson Hall washed, and the paint retouched where it was needed. The trade with the Far East was one of the most important out of Salem and yet never before had the things relating to it been brought together to tell the story of that productive seafaring commerce. John Robinson Hall is now arranged to bring together paintings, objects, and documents relating to that trade with China and India. The venerable portrait figures of East India merchants were installed in the large central case in the hall and arranged in a life-like group with appropriate furnishings. Here, as solemn and exotic hosts, they greet the visitor as he enters the room. Portraits of Salem captains remain on the east wall, but the north wall and the spaces over the fireplaces on the west side are hung with paintings of China ports, and on the south wall are portraits of some of the Chinese and Indian merchants. Suitable objects and documents have been placed in the flat cases and appropriate pieces from our ethnological collections decorate the mantels. The remainder of the portraits of merchants and captains formerly in the hall have been moved into the newly painted gallery leading to the natural history rooms. Here, they are shown much after the manner of a European portrait gallery. We found that not only was the lighting much better on the portraits so that they are more pleasingly shown but we were able to display a dozen more than before.

Some of the most important models from the central case in Robinson Hall are now in the large case at the end of the new portrait gallery which formerly housed these merchant figures. All of the models in our collection by H. Percy Ashley, with the exception of that of *Cleopatra's Barge* were brought together in the Entrance Corridor where they brighten that unpretentious spot. The model of *Cleopatra's Barge* was placed with the *Barge* relics in Academy Hall corridor and the few remaining models from Robinson Hall were dispersed elsewhere through the collections.

A nostalgic exhibit for those who shot and fished the uplands, shores, and rivers fifty years ago is entitled "Fishing and Hunting in the Old Days" and gives a picture of these sports in Essex County around the turn of the century. Old decoys, guns, fishing rods, creels, paintings of game, and ingenious devices for ameliorating some of the hardships of camping are included. The hunting journals of two of our former trustees who were also ardent sportsmen, George Augustus Peabody, and Dr. John Charles Phillips, are shown, as well as a journal of the famous Ives hunting camp in Rowley. The exhibit, which will remain on view until the middle of 1952, was arranged by Miss Dorothy E. Synder assisted by Mr. Lawrence W. Jenkins and Colonel George L. Smith, who loaned much of the material included. It has received unusually wide publicity in all the county newspapers and Miss Snyder gave a fifteen-minute broadcast about it over the Lawrence radio station.

As is usual, anniversaries played a large part in determining some of our special shows. In May, for instance, a small collection of French prints lent by the Boston Public Library was exhibited in the Entrance Corridor as part of the local Franco-American celebration of the 2000th anniversary of the founding of the city of Paris. In connection with the country-wide Audubon centennial celebration, we had an exhibition of a selection of the prints from our large elephant folio as well as from some of the Audubon octavo volumes. Since this summer brought the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Battle of the Little Big Horn River, where General George Armstrong Custer and more than two hundred men of the seventh cavalry regiment

were slain by a force of two to three thousand Sioux and Cheyenne warriors under Sitting Bull, we showed a selection of the work of Amos Bad Heart Buffalo, an Indian artist, who was the son and nephew of warriors who participated in that battle. A group of these reproductions which concentrate on the activities of Colonel Reno's command at the Battle of the Little Big Horn were arranged with a selection of our Plains Indian material by Colonel Smith in the Entrance Corridor. The original paintings were lost for many years but turned up in France where they were reproduced in 1938.

A series of prints showing various Salem scenes, presented to us by Mr. Rudolph Dick, was combined with photographs from our files showing the Salem waterfront during the nineteenth century by Charles H. P. Copeland in an attractive exhibit which aroused considerable local interest because it illustrated the amazing physical changes in the appearance of the city during the last generation. Mr. Copeland and Osgood Williams also arranged an exhibition of lithographs and photographs of some thirty Cunard Line vessels. This display included a number of the superb prints from the Bradley steamship collection which had not been on exhibition for some time.

The popular little Exhibits of the Month were continued throughout the year. In January the rare Audubon print of the wild turkey was shown in connection with other Audubon things, and in February, there were displayed two skillfully painted Manila signs showing the names of Charles D. Mugford, 1845, and William P. Pierce, 1875, which were made by intensifying the colors of native figures and objects. During March, several Iroquois false face masks with an account of their use appeared. In April, the appropriate exhibit was a Paul Revere letter dated June, 1796, in which Revere is bidding for the copper casting work of the pintles and braces to hold the rudder of the U.S. frigate Constitution. In May, skulls showing the relationship in the bone structure of the head in man and ape were shown, and in June, we showed the Chinese silver junk model already mentioned. July brought forth a series of broadsides advertising circuses and manageries before 1820, and August, the only two poisonous snakes to occur in the

County, the copperhead and rattler. The September show was of gold and crystal Siamese actors' headdresses; that of October was a selection of chinaware used on early Cunard Liners. In November, two of our rare specimens of the extinct passenger pigeons together with one of the nets formerly used for pigeon trapping appeared. And in December, the final exhibit brought forth two rare Karen costumes from Burma. These costumes may have been collected by Adoniram Judson, who set forth on his missionary labors to that inhospitable country from Salem in 1812 in the brig *Caravan*.

Another special exhibition arranged by Miss Snyder entitled "Jewels of the Insect World" showed a selection from our handsome mounted butterflies and moths from the E. J. Smith collection which was given us by Frank W. Benson. Miss Snyder also continued the regular exhibits in the Salem Public Library's children's room. These have now been going on for

over three years.

Throughout the year we have endeavored to aid other institutions and organizations with the loan of material whenever it was possible. Charles H. P. Copeland and Colonel George L. Smith set up a remarkable travelling exhibit of nautical instruments designed to show the development of various devices used in the art of navigation. They took this exhibit to New York in January where it was shown at the national meeting of the United States Power Squadron at the Hotel Astor. Our famous and much travelled MacFarlane painting of the burning of the Harvey Birch by the Confederate raider Nashville was lent to the Norfolk Museum of Arts and Sciences for a special exhibition relating to the naval history of the Confederacy. An extensive exhibit entitled "Animals of the Seashore" complete with labeling was made by Miss Snyder for the Danvers State Hospital, and our Battle of the Little Big Horn exhibit already mentioned was loaned intact to the Farnsworth Museum in Rockland, Maine. A large display of knives, forks, and spoons was lent to the Towle Silver Company of Newburyport for a traveling exhibition, and some of these appeared on a television program sponsored by that company. Two African carvings were lent for an exhibition of African art to Scripps College, Claremont, California and the Farnsworth Museum was also aided in its special Audubon exhibition. Material from our various collections as well as books and recordings were also lent for school class work and to organizations throughout the county. Other institutions that exhibited our material during the year included Boston University, Salem State Teachers College, and the Boxford, Topsfield and Salem Public Libraries. Natural history material was constantly used in class work by Miss Snyder and other teachers of the Massachusetts Audubon Society, and ethnological material was lent to the Salem Trade School, to the Richmond School in Danvers, and others.

In connection with our exhibits and other activities this year our relationship with the press was particularly good. We received better coverage than we have ever had before. Besides stories on all our activities in the Salem Evening News and frequently in other papers of Essex County, as well as in the Boston newspapers, stories about us, some of them quite long, appeared in such widely scattered places as The Auckland Star and the Wellington papers in New Zealand, The Brazil Herald, The Providence Journal, The New York Times, The Honolulu Advertiser, The San Francisco Chronicle, and many others. The account of our South Sea expedition was picked up by the United Press and appeared in a great many papers throughout the country. Feature stories also appeared about the museum or members of the staff in the Salem paper, The Boston Sunday Globe, and The Boston Traveler.

It was a satisfaction to us that we were able to fill many of the orders for our Wedgwood ship plates before Christmas. All of them would have been filled had not the Boston dock workers strike prevented the discharging of cargo from a ship carrying our blue plates. One hundred forty-six complete dozens and one hundred eighty-four individual plates have been sold.

Twenty-five lectures were given to outside groups by members of the staff during the year, and innumerable school classes and other groups were guided around the Museum or given lectures on various portions of the collections. In October, Mr. Copeland spoke at the national convention of the Girl Scouts of America which was held in Boston this year. Miss Snyder gave

a talk to the pupils of all the public schools of Gloucester, the total attendance being over sixteen hundred fifty, and before he left to go to Rockland, Mr. Hadlock gave a course of six lectures at the Ropes Memorial on the uses of native plants by our eastern American Indians.

This was also a year of considerable traveling and the Museum was represented at a great many meetings of professional organizations. In January, Osgood Williams went to the Steamship Historical Society annual meeting in New York. In May, I went on a four-day expedition with Robert B. Applebee down the Maine coast where we succeeded in gathering in a certain amount of marine manuscripts, books, charts and pictures, and over the Memorial day week end I attended the annual conference of the American Association Museums in Philadelphia and, in late September, with three other members of the staff, the New England Museums' Conference at Old Sturbridge Village. Miss Snyder attended the American Ornithologists Union annual meeting in Montreal in October. The same month Mrs. Dodge and I were the guests of Mrs. Crowninshield during the festivities at the dedication and opening of the Henry Francis DuPont Winterthur Museum.

This year the museum has been used by organizations as a meeting place more than has been customary in the past. The Peabody Museum Marine Associates have held seven well-attended meetings, six of them in the museum and the other at the Boston Yacht Club. Many members of the Associates have given material to the museum over the years and aided us in numerous other ways. The Essex County Ornithological Club continues to hold its meetings here as it has since its inception. In appreciation the club presented us with a large new screen that can be used for either slides or moving pictures. The Rushlight Club, made up of people who collect lighting devices, had their annual meeting here in October, and the Massachusetts Arms Collectors Association met here in June. Both of these groups were welcomed and shown material from our collections and both contributed small sums to the institution. The Marblehead chapter of the United States Power Squadron piloting course, attended by some seventy people, was taught by Colonel

Smith at the museum during the fall, and early in the year the squadron's course in navigation was also held here. Miss Snyder gave a series of programs in conservation and bird identification for five school and scout groups in the natural history rooms and The Massachusetts Archaeological Society, Northeastern Chapter, held three of its meetings here.

As would be expected from increased publicity, attendance by staff members at outside meetings, and meetings of groups in the museum, there has been a marked increase in the number of individuals coming to the museum for research or information. A day does not go by when at least one visitor is not in the offices working on or inquiring about some subject that interests him and there have been many days when people were squeezed into every available corner with others waiting for interviews with staff members. Many come with simple questions that can be disposed of quickly; others have intricate problems. Scholars visit us in ever increasing numbers and settle down for several days or a week or two at a time, and graduate students, too, continue to come to us in greater numbers for advice and to work on our collections. There have been very great demands on our photograph file of ships. Dispensing information ranges from furnishing the deck and cabin details of a coasting schooner to advice on how to get rid of skunks under porches; from discussion of the influence of Polynesian designs on American textiles to supplying the High Court of Zanzibar with information on Said bin Sultan; from giving the habits of the black widow spider, one of which bit a child in Marblehead this summer, to assisting graduate students on theses in maritime history.

Despite these multitudinous duties and activities the staff managed to carry on a small amount of research during the year. I completed the section on the Society Islands for our series of Polynesian catalogues and published ten articles and reviews of one kind and another including a survey of Northeastern Indian Art. Mr. Copeland continued his work on a supplement of our portrait catalogue and compiled the index for volume XI of The American Neptune. Miss Snyder continued research on the bird life of Essex County for the projected book with Mr. Ludlow Griscom. During the year she also published four natural

history articles, including an account in *Rhodora* of a legume new to the county found on Plum Island. In the course of her extensive field trips she found, also on Plum Island, a new form of aster for the county. Dr. Stuart K. Harris of Boston University has continued working on the new flora of Essex County and has nearly completed his research in the various herbaria. He has also checked a number of the sites and, in the course of doing so, has run across many forgotten local place names and other amusing by-products not directly connected with botanical investigations. He has also relocated some of the original magnolias from the historic stand in Magnolia, where they grow hundreds of miles north of their nearest congeners and he has added a new species to the county list in *Wolffia Columbiana*.

A year ago I became Managing Editor of *The American Neptune* and so during the year we have seen this journal through the press and done all the editing here at the museum. Mrs. Priscilla W. Ratley has handled all of the business of the journal and much of the correspondence, besides aiding me in the editorial work.

Osgood Williams and George L. Smith, our two most faithful and regular volunteers, have been on hand practically every day as regularly as the rest of the staff. The efforts of Mr. Williams in building up our collection of steamship pictures and documentary material relating to steamships have been notable; he has set up new exchanges and made many acquaintances in the field; he carries on an extensive correspondence with other collectors and students and has attended many of the Steamship Historical Society meetings. His enthusiasm for the subject is unbounded and his knowledge very deep. Colonel Smith has continued cataloguing and arranging our enormous chart collection. Besides this, he has aided in putting on many of the exhibits. He and Miss Ruth R. Ropes have done all the ethnological cataloguing of current accessions during the year and they have also completed entering all of the Caroline and Marshall Islands' material on exhibition on our new catalogue cards and made a start on the storage material from those island groups.

Another volunteer assistant, Richard Eliott Currier, spent

nearly every day of his summer vacation working at the museum and made himself useful in a variety of ways. He traced a number of lines of ships which were on paper that was disintegrating, aided Mr. Copeland in hanging the portraits in the newly arranged portrait gallery, and relabeled large sections of the natural history exhibits for Miss Snyder.

There have been other alterations besides those changes in Robinson Hall and the portrait gallery already mentioned. During the winter the offices were completely renovated. Walls and ceilings received fresh paint for the first time since 1907, and the floors were sanded. The large storage cases in the work room were torn down and all the furniture was moved from the offices while they were cleaned one by one. All this was a work much needed and was accomplished through the generosity of our late president, Augustus P. Loring, Jr. Bright, cheerful, and clean as they now are, the offices are a delight to work in and the space available for meetings in the work room is much increased. The addition of new equipment including a Soundscriber dictating machine, new typewriters, typewriter tables, and an adding machine, some of it given by Mr. Loring, also added to our comfort and efficiency. The repointing the exterior of the building that has been going on for several years was brought nearer completion when the south end of East India Marine Hall and the west side of East Hall were finished this

Several changes have occurred in our board of trustees and staff.

On the first of October the museum sustained a severe loss in the death of its president, Augustus P. Loring, Jr. Elected to the board of trustees in 1939 he became president in 1942. During the ten years of his presidency he did more for the welfare of this institution than any other man in recent years. His enthusiasm for it was unbounded and his support, generous. It is impossible to mention the innumerable benefits that he bestowed upon the museum and the number of people that he introduced to the place and whom he imbued with his enthusiasm for supporting it. He was greatly beloved by all members of the staff for, although he was a very busy man, he was a very human

one and his cheerful visits were a pleasure and an inspiration to all. The museum will publish a memorial to him during the coming year.

Frank Weston Benson died 14 November 1951. He was a great and distinguished artist and of our board of trustees the oldest both in age and years of service. He was elected to the board in 1914 and was active and interested in the affairs of the institution until recent years, when advancing age and illness confined him to his home. He was a member of the Museum Committee where his advice and sound judgment were relied on for many years. The natural history collections held particular interest for him as he was an ardent ornithologist and sportsman as well as an artist. For me, his passing was the cutting of a last link, for he was the only surviving member of our board who was on the board at the time I first came to the museum.

Mr. Stephen Wheatland was elected president of the trustees to take Mr. Loring's place, and Mr. Augustus P. Loring III was elected to fill his father's vacancy on the board. Mr. Wheatland's family has been active in the affairs of this museum for three generations—a record that would be unique outside of New England. At the annual meeting in March the trustees accepted the resignation of Francis E. Currier as treasurer and Alfred P. Putnam was elected to the office.

On 14 April Wendell S. Hadlock resigned as administrative assistant to become director of The William A. Farnsworth Library and Art Museum in Rockland, Maine. We all rejoiced in his advancement but he was sorely missed. In May, Miss Margaret Lane Connolly was employed as staff secretary, a new position and one that she fills with competence and grace. Otherwise our staff remains the same as the previous year. Of all our staff I should like to say that a director could not be blessed with a more competent or pleasant group of people. Our increased activities, which mean an increased work load for everybody, have been accepted cheerfully and enthusiastically and it seems to me that we have an *esprit de corps* which is remarkable. I have been particularly aided by my secretary, Priscilla Waldo Ratley, who has lightened my burdens and taken many responsi-

bilities off my shoulders. The efforts and coöperation of the staff have made possible the accomplishments during the past year and I am pleased and beholden.

ERNEST STANLEY DODGE
Director

CONDENSED TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1951

Income from Invested Funds for Current Pur-	
poses	\$39,010.01
Gifts for Specific Purposes	7,579.88
Miscellaneous Receipts	366.77
	\$46,956.66
Staff Salaries, Accession of Collections and	
Administrative Expenses	\$32,277.26
Building Expense—Janitors, Fuel, Insurance	
and Repairs	14,714.13
Unexpended Balance of Restricted Income	29.90
	\$47,021.29
Operating Deficit	\$ 64.63

In addition to the gifts stated above, the Museum received \$2,200.00 from The American Museum of Natural History for research in Polynesia, \$2,858.90 to be added to the Endowment Funds, and \$6,396.06 as subscriptions from Fellows and Friends. The subscriptions have been temporarily added to the investment funds.

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Mrs. Richard Wheatland, Topsfield, Massachusetts
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1951

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